

2-12-1996

## Faculty Recital: Carol McAmis, soprano & Karl Paulnack, piano

Carol McAmis

Karl Paulnack

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### Recommended Citation

McAmis, Carol and Paulnack, Karl, "Faculty Recital: Carol McAmis, soprano & Karl Paulnack, piano" (1996). *All Concert & Recital Programs*. 5350.

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*"It is  
my plan  
to build  
a school  
of music  
second  
to none."*

—William  
Grant Egbert  
(1867–1928)  
Founder,  
Ithaca  
Conservatory  
of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA

# FACULTY RECITAL

Carol McAmis, soprano  
Karl Paulnack, piano

with guest artist  
Nóirín Ní Riain

## I.

### Hermit Songs

Samuel Barber  
(1910-1981)

- I. At St. Patrick's Purgatory*
- II. Church Bells at Night*
- III. St. Ita's Vision*
- IV. The Heavenly Banquet*
- V. The Crucifixion*
- VI. Sea Snatch*
- VII. Promiscuity*
- VIII. The Monk and His Cat*
- IX. The Praises of God*
- X. The Desire for Hermitage*

## II.

Guest artist Nóirín Ní Riain will draw her selections from the traditional sacred and secular music of Ireland, Gregorian chant, and the chants of Hildegarde von Bingen.

## III.

Nóirín Ní Riain and Carol McAmis will sing selected duets.

**Ford Hall Auditorium**  
**Monday, February 12, 1996**  
**8:15 p.m.**



Singing in a personal style unique to herself, Nóirín Ní Riain represents the confluence of several traditions including traditional, classical, and contemporary. Yet her singing defies categorization. She is not a traditional singer although the song tradition of Ireland forms the essential basis of her art. She is not a classical singer although she has trained as one and has inspired no less than three of the great composers of this century just passing—John Cage, Karlheinz Stockhausen, and John Traverner (Traverner in fact wrote his opera *Mary of Egypt* directly out of her lamentation singing). She is not a contemporary singer in a popular vein although she is linked by sentiment to the heart of such expression. It is in fact so much easier to list what she is not rather than to find the word for what she is.

Here then lies the secret. It is because she is all of these voices that she cannot be locked into any one of them. And at the meeting of these musical waters is the intersection where she will be heard. Those who are explorers of sound recognize the unique cry of her voice—Cage, Stockhausen, and Traverner included.

Rather than being the waters themselves she is the bird who flies close above the wave—now the skylark with its thrilling note, now the bird of prey with its cruel real swoop, now the noble eagle with its proud wingspan. Shape-changing from bird to lamentation woman, from crone to queen, into priestess and temple singer, and on through a bewildering gallery of sonic images—the song of a 16th century Rajasthani saint moves into an Indian film song, the chant of a 12th century German Abbess merges with the visionary song of a contemporary Swiss mystic, the nature songs of Celtic tradition from the very countryside where she was born break open into the seamless gesture of Gregorian chant.

For Nóirín Ní Riain, singing is a form of prayer which reaches out from the deepest personal well of feeling into the Spirit's flow. It is a crying into the wind, it is the triumph over the storm, it is the sweet breath of peace. Above all else, it is a listening.

## CONCERT CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- |    |           |  |
|----|-----------|--|
| 13 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Recital; Frank Campos, trumpet   |
| 14 | 8:15 p.m. | Guest Recital; Micheal O'Suilleabhain, piano and<br>Noirin Ni Riain, soprano         |
| 18 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Recital; Patrice Pastore, soprano  |
| 19 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Recital; Ellen Jewett, violin  |
| 20 | 4:00 p.m. | Master Class; David Ross, contrabassoon  |
| 20 | 8:15 p.m. | Guest Recital, David Ross, contrabassoon   |
| 21 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Chamber Music Recital  |
| 22 | 8:15 p.m. | Women's Chorale; Janet Galván, conductor and<br>Concert Band, Mark Fonder, conductor |
| 23 | 8:15 p.m. | Chamber Orchestra; Grant Cooper, conductor   |
| 25 | 3:00 p.m. | Wind Ensemble; Rodney Winther, conductor   |
| 26 | 8:15 p.m. | Contemporary Chamber Ensemble; Grant Cooper, conductor                               |
| 27 | 8:15 p.m. | Percussion Ensemble; Gordon Stout and<br>Robert Bridge, conductors                   |
| 28 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Chamber Music Recital; Ithaca Wind Quintet                                   |
| 29 | 8:15 p.m. | Chorus; Michael Krueger, conductor and<br>Symphonic Band; Rodney Winther, conductor  |

### MARCH

- |   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| 2 | 8:15 p.m. | Symphony Orchestra; Grant Cooper, conductor<br>featuring our Concerto Competition winners |
| 3 | 3:00 p.m. | Trombone Troupe; Harold Reynolds, conductor   |
| 3 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Recital; Richard Faria, clarinet  |
| 6 | 8:15 p.m. | Faculty Chamber Music Recital; Ithaca Brass   |

In addition to the concerts listed above, music students give solo and chamber recitals, which are free and open to the public. We appreciate your continued interest in, and support for, our programming.

### ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERTS 1995-96\*

October 6  
November 5  
February 5

Shifrin-Neubauer-Garrett Trio  
Elly Ameling  
Chanticleer

\*admission charge